

THE RICHMOND DISPATCH.

BY THE DISPATCH COMPANY.

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MANCHESTER OFFICE, 1308 HULL STREET.

FRIDAY, MARCH 29, 1895.

(Wanted, Concentrated Public Spirit.)

In this city of Richmond a public-spirited community? Well, we shouldn't like to say that it is not, but really we would like to see more evidence that it is.

As a matter of fact our people have plenty of public spirit, but it is going about loose, disjointed, and disorganized. It is not available for business purposes. What is needed is that it should be brought up and unified and solidified, and set to work in given directions, under proper leaders.

Those who are entitled to say that the Richmond newspapers do their part towards advancing the city's interests, but they often feel that they are not sustained by businessmen. For instance here we have been talking about the annexation of Manchester for months and months, but as yet the Annexation Committee have received but scant encouragement from our businessmen.

Again the papers of the day have had column after column on the subject of the removal of the South of various New England enterprises. What have we done to make known to the persons interested the attitude of Richmond as an industrial center? People of other States are getting up immigrant excursion-trains to bring to the South land-buyers from the West and Northwest. What have we done, what are we going to do, in that direction?

But more important still—what are we doing, what have we done, to sustain and encourage the worthy men who are conducting valuable enterprises here and who are bravely struggling against hard times and dull markets? Are we cheering them on? Are we helping them in their monetary affairs? Are we giving them suggestions of value? If we are doing all of these things, then indeed we have public spirit, helpful, practical, sensible public spirit. If not, then it seems to us that we should get together and talk our situation over and organize, and resolve to make business "hum" and push Richmond ahead; yes, not only "talk Richmond up" but "work Richmond up."

Richmond has had a great deal of public-spiritedness given her on the subject of her advantages and attractions, and she can command as much more of it as she wishes, but it will not avail her very much unless it is backed up by organization and enthusiasm. We particularly need enthusiasm. The enthusiastic men that we have should be at the front. The more they are rising, and we ought to make ready to take it at its flood.

It would be a good thing if we Richmonders would solemnly and deliberately resolve to make this year memorable in our industrial history. In the course of a few months our grand hotel of the future, the new hotel, the new hotel, soon we may hope to see work begun on the belt line and passenger depot of the Chesapeake and Ohio Railway Company. And from time to time other enterprises will appear in sight, and may be used to our advantage if we will but avail ourselves of every opportunity.

But the disheartening thing is that our business-men do not get together as often as they should, and do not often enough unite in public enterprise. Let us resolve to reform this altogether. Let us have a series of business-men's meetings. Let our bankers, merchants, and manufacturers come together and consult with one another, consult as to the present and future, and plan as to the future.

We look to the Chamber of Commerce, our great center of business organization, to take the lead in this movement. Let it lead and we will follow. Let it set a new life this year, and let our chief aim be to develop and concentrate public spirit.

Should There Be Fusion in Virginia? The New York Sun declares that political partnerships with Populists have been an unprofitable thing for the Democracy, and predicts that from the hour of its abandonment will date a revival of Democratic prospects. Our New York contemporary is a bitter enemy to the income tax and to the free coinage of silver, and is not intended by the remark above quoted to warn the Democrats as a party that they would run the risk of defeat if they deserted New England and the Middle States on those questions, and allied themselves with the Democrats of the South, the West, and the Rocky Mountains and Pacific States, and those whose voters are in favor of providing by law for the free coinage of silver, and also for the perpetuation of the income tax. To the two questions—free silver and the income tax—the Sun has devoted a large portion of its space for some time past.

The Sun says that in the presidential election of 1888 the Democrats of Kansas cast 107,000 votes for their candidate for Governor and 102,000 for the Democratic nominee for President. That was before the agitation of the Farmers' Alliance or the Silverites. But on both these questions the Democrats of the State afterwards identified themselves, the result being that in 1894 the Democratic vote in Kansas had fallen to 55,000.

Figures teaching the same lesson are quoted from Nebraska, Oregon, Minnesota, Illinois, and other States.

We give these figures as a warning to the true Democrats of Virginia and that they should not desert their party and cast their votes with the Populists or any other party which antagonizes the principles of the Jeffersonian Democracy. The Democrat who shall desert his party on such temporary issues as the income tax and the free coinage of silver will find himself in an unenviable predicament if the Supreme Court of the United States should decide the income tax to be unconstitutional, and

a new international bimetallic conference should at any time within a few months agree upon a coinage ratio between silver and gold. In fact there is no place for a genuine Democrat outside of the Democratic party. If there are any wrongs needing rectification, they will be rectified by the Democrats themselves. If the income tax or the silver question shall come up every Democrat can set for himself until after the Democratic National Convention of 1896 shall have laid down a new platform for the Democratic party to mount. Why split the party in expectation of a crisis which may never occur? Why should any Democrat take a position from which his allies of the Republican party and the negro party will be sure to drive him? Why borrow trouble from the future, in the attempt to borrow voters from political opponents whose one never-failing effort is to put down the party of Jefferson and Jackson?

Republicanism in the South.

The trip recently made by Governor McKinley to the South is only one of a number of facts which go to show that the Republicans of the North are watching the Southern people with intense interest. The St. Louis Globe-Democrat expresses what is the general northern belief when it says, as it does, that there can be no doubt that the Republican party is rapidly gaining favor and support in the South. That paper adds that the result of the elections in the Southern States last fall "was a revelation."

It means that the intelligent white people of that part of the country are beginning to realize the importance of the Republican party, and that they are not another name for practical wisdom.

"They see at last the folly of clinging to a party which has never done anything for them, and that can not be depended upon for any better service than that of keeping alive the prejudices of the war for political effect. Having reached this conclusion, they are not likely to make the mistake of joining any third party. They will become Republicans because that is the only rational and practical way of getting what they want. No new party can do for them what is necessary to put their section in the way of developing its resources, increasing its commerce, and becoming soundly and permanently prosperous."

We would say to our St. Louis correspondent that if no new party can do for the southern people what the old Republican party can do, then no new party can do for the southern people what the old Democratic party can do. And accordingly we have again and again urged the Republican party to cling to that party as long as it stands for the true principles of free government handed down to us by the fathers of the republic. Jeffersonian, Jacksonian Democracy will never be out of date as long as the people of this country shall heed the teachings of history. It would be unpardonable for the southern Democrats, and especially the Richmond Democrats, ever to think of separating themselves from the body of the glorious old Democratic party. "Stand firm" is the watchword. The present condition of things cannot continue forever.

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The Dispatch has been of the opinion all along that the Goodman jury were harshly judged. The public has never given sufficient consideration to the fact that the testimony for the Commonwealth, as produced at Charlottesville, was much weaker than that produced at Covington. Then, too, what Mr. Parsons said differently, even on points not affected by Judge McLaughlin's decision. And the long time that elapsed between the killing and final trial had worked in favor of the prisoner. So, if there was a miscarriage of justice at Charlottesville, our court system and the judges who passed on the case should share the blame with the jury.

The important question now is: Are we going to continue to force the law which requires capital cases to be tried in the county courts, and continue to give the accused the right of appeal to the Circuit Court and the Supreme Court of Appeals both? There is too much appealing allowed prisoners. One appeal would be plenty. The prisoner might be given his choice of being tried either in the County Court or in the Circuit Court, but the only appeal he should have should be to the Supreme Court of Appeals.

How to Insure White Supremacy. South Carolina should look to the schemes to provide in a new constitution for the supremacy of the white race. Coupon tickets are recommended by some people, and other new things by other people. Here is perhaps the best of the schemes, if it were, as we think it is, not consistent with the latest amendments to the Federal Constitution. The Greenville News states it as follows: "Our idea is to have in the new constitution a section about thus: 'This constitution shall be in effect from January 1, 1896. Provided, that an election to be held November 5, 1895, at which every male citizen of the State above the age of 21 years and not disqualified for infamous crime may vote, six thousand votes are cast, "No Constitution," yes.'"

"The Charleston News and Courier describes the latest proposition as follows: 'The real idea is to seek to submit the question of ratification to all the voters in the State, and the constitution is to go into effect if 65,000 voters vote in favor of which is a very different idea from the one first expressed.' That is, even if there should be 100,000 votes cast against ratification. We confess that 'the idea' is not clear to us. But the News proposes it as follows: 'There is no difficulty in understanding now just what is proposed. It is that the convention shall frame a constitution which is to become effective if 65,000 white voters vote for it, and 65,000 colored voters, or 80,000 colored voters and 15,000 white voters vote against it, making an adverse majority of 15,000 or 30,000. It is to become effective despite such adverse vote.'"

We take it that the chief object of the gentlemen who called the Roanoke conference was to arouse public attention to the desirability of remodeling our State Constitution. Already our State papers are full of articles on the subject. And though there are many who say as to whether this is a good time to have the conference, or to force the question upon State politics, the opinion is general that our Constitution ought to be revised and amended as soon as that work can be committed to safe hands.

Recent publications as to the capture of the Federal troops by the Hon. Jefferson Davis, it may be said that a commission appointed by the War Department decided that the Fourth Michigan Cavalry was entitled to the reward of \$100,000 for the capture of Mr. Davis, but when the bill came before Congress

the First Wisconsin put in a claim, and shortly before the close of the session, in July, 1863, Congress set aside the report of the commission and gave to each General Wilson, commanding the United States Cavalry in that region; Lieutenant-Colonel Fredrick, Lieutenant-Colonel Harnden, and Captain John A. Yoe, the sum of \$100,000 each, and the remainder of the sum being distributed equally among the members of the organizations with the expedition.

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NEW ALMSHOUSE FOR CLARK.

Mr. James Thrown put in a claim, and shortly before the close of the session, in July, 1863, Congress set aside the report of the commission and gave to each General Wilson, commanding the United States Cavalry in that region; Lieutenant-Colonel Fredrick, Lieutenant-Colonel Harnden, and Captain John A. Yoe, the sum of \$100,000 each, and the remainder of the sum being distributed equally among the members of the organizations with the expedition.

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THEIR MEMORY STAYED.

Mr. James Thrown put in a claim, and shortly before the close of the session, in July, 1863, Congress set aside the report of the commission and gave to each General Wilson, commanding the United States Cavalry in that region; Lieutenant-Colonel Fredrick, Lieutenant-Colonel Harnden, and Captain John A. Yoe, the sum of \$100,000 each, and the remainder of the sum being distributed equally among the members of the organizations with the expedition.

The two new steamboats to run between New York, Albany, and Troy, which are now being built, will cost nearly \$1,000,000, and will be the largest and fastest drift boats in existence. The present passenger steamers of the People's line, the Drew and the Richmond, will be utilized exclusively for freight and second-class passengers.

"The Early Relations Between Maryland and Virginia," by John H. Latane, A. B., is the title of a pamphlet of 32 pages just issued from the Johns Hopkins University press. It treats of the "Rise of the Puritans in Virginia and Their Expansion under Governor Berkeley" and "Puritan Supremacy in Virginia and Maryland."

The wheat crop of Argentina is turning out badly in the threshing, having been overtaken by a late frost. The quantity for export will be from 30 to 50 per cent. less than that of last year. The corn (maize) crop is a good one, and there will be at least 1,000,000 tons of it for export.

A PRETTY HOME WEDDING.